

Will the broadcast flag interfere with consumers ability to make copies of DTV content for their personal use, either on personal video recorders or removable media?

This concerns me for one reason without knowing exactly how I am going to use my fair rights of personal use to recode DTV content then play it back for personal use on the device that I want to watch it on. There is no possible way that a flag might not cause an issue. Say I record the DTV show on a PRV and a few days later want to watch it on my PC in the home office because my wife is watching live tv. I can foresee that this type of fair use could be restricted or even denied with a broadcast flag.

Would the digital flag interfere with consumers ability to send DTV content across networks, such as home digital networks connecting digital set top boxes, digital recorders, digital servers and digital display devices? This is definitely how I envision using DTV and other types of content. Personally if the Flag doesn't hamper this type of ability then it is fine by me but on the same token I don't see what purpose the flag would serve proponents of the digital flag for this is the type of behavior they are trying to stop.

Would a broadcast flag requirement limit the development of future equipment providing consumers with new options?

Any kind of limiting of new and innovative ideas would not only harm the consumer but all so the media industry. If you had an idea and could not implement it due to a broadcast flag then we are stuck in an old world with no room for ideas. The digital flag looks to serve several purposes one to fight piracy and secondly to keep the status quo for new technology until a media business model can be applied to it is evil to them. The same thing happened with the VCR and now they make a fortune. Any type of regulation like this only entrenches the status quo and doesn't allow for new ways of ideas. If we had stopped the invention of the automobile because all the people in the horse industry were going to suffer just think where we would be now.

What will be the cost impact, if any, that a broadcast flag requirement would have on consumer electronics equipment?

This would be one more cost in the electronics that would have to be paid for by the consumer that really serves no benefit to the consumer.

Other Comments:

The broadcast flag really concerns me in is this really the correct approach. The Flag in my opinion if implemented in a fashion that allows the consumer all the right of fair personal use would not allow for control of piracy. The consumer will be stuck with an extra hoop to jump through as pirates find a way around it. The only way to fight piracy is to go after the pirates, not to make the consumers life tougher.